



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/695,418	10/27/2003	Richard M. Barth	060809-0142-US	4481

38426 7590 03/09/2005

MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP/RAMBUS INC.
2 PALO ALTO SQUARE
3000 EL CAMINO REAL
PALO ALTO, CA 94306

EXAMINER

VITAL, PIERRE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2188

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/695,418

Applicant(s)

BARTH ET AL.

Examiner

Pierre M. Vital

Art Unit

2188

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-8 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9-24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is in response to applicant's communication filed December 17, 2004 in response to PTO Office Action mailed September 17, 2004. The Applicant's remarks and amendments to the claims and/or the specification were considered with the results that follow.
2. In response to the last Office Action, no claims have been amended. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2-25 have been added. As a result, claims 2-25 are now pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2-4, 6 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Butler et al. (US6,720,968) and Harriman (US6,330,645).

As per claim 2, Butler discloses a memory system, comprising: a memory device [system memory 206; Fig. 2]; a data bus [controller 304 is coupled to buffer memory 306 via an address/data bus; col. 4, lines 30-31]; and a controller coupled to the memory device using the data bus [controller 304 is coupled to buffer memory 306 via an address/data bus; col. 4, lines 29-31], the controller including: an interface for receiving read, write and a non-read/write commands [controller arbitrates access to buffer 306 between reads, writes and memory refreshes; col. 4, lines 34-36]; a buffer that temporarily stores write data corresponding to at least a first address in the memory device [data received from the video source is written to the buffer 306 and from the buffer 306 to the system memory 206; col. 4, lines 1-4]; and buffer control logic [controller arbitrates access to buffer 306 between reads, writes and memory refreshes; col. 4, lines 34-36], wherein the write data corresponding to the write address is transferred from the buffer to the memory device in accordance with at least a current command and the buffer control logic [FPGA 308 detects valid data and asserts a write enable signal to memory controller 304; memory controller 304 writes received data to SDRAM buffer 306; col. 4, lines 48-61; data received from the video source is written to the buffer 306 and from the buffer 306 to the system memory 206; col. 4, lines 1-4].

However, Butler does not specifically teach the controller performs a predefined operation on a read command when a second address corresponding to the read command is the same as the first address. as recited in the claim.

Harriman discloses the controller performs a predefined operation on a read command when a second address corresponding to the read command is the same as the first address [col. 5, lines 1-6, 24-27].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Butler and Harriman before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the system of Butler to include the controller performs a predefined operation on a read command when a second address corresponding to the read command is the same as the first address because it would have provided needed coherency by reducing the average performance cost of the coherency scheme (col. 2, lines 27-28) as taught by Harriman.

Claim 3 is rejected as per the rationale of the Harriman reference in claim 2 above.

Claim 4 is rejected as per the rationale of the Harriman reference in claim 2 above.

As per claim 6, Butler discloses the buffer comprises a first in, first out (FIFO) buffer [col. 7, lines 5-9].

As per claim 25, Butler discloses a memory system, comprising: a memory means [*system memory 206; Fig. 2*]; a communication means [*controller 304 is coupled to buffer memory 306 via an address/data bus; col. 4, lines 30-31*]; and a controller means coupled to the memory means using the communication means [*controller 304 is coupled to buffer memory 306 via an address/data bus; col. 4, lines 29-31*], wherein the controller means receives read, write and a non-read/write commands [*controller arbitrates access to buffer 306 between reads, writes and memory refreshes; col. 4, lines 34-36*], temporarily stores write data corresponding to at least a first address in the memory means [*data received from the video*

Art Unit: 2188

source is written to the buffer 306 and from the buffer 306 to the system memory 206; col. 4, lines 1-4], transfers the write data to the memory means in accordance with at least a current command [FPGA 308 detects valid data and asserts a write enable signal to memory controller 304; memory controller 304 writes received data to SDRAM buffer 306; col. 4, lines 48-61; data received from the video source is written to the buffer 306 and from the buffer 306 to the system memory 206; col. 4, lines 1-4].

However, Butler does not specifically teach the controller performs a predefined operation on a read command when a second address corresponding to the read command is the same as the first address as recited in the claim.

Harriman discloses the controller performs a predefined operation on a read command when a second address corresponding to the read command is the same as the first address [col. 5, lines 1-6, 24-27].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Butler and Harriman before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the system of Butler to include the controller performs a predefined operation on a read command when a second address corresponding to the read command is the same as the first address because it would have provided needed coherency by reducing the average performance cost of the coherency scheme (col. 2, lines 27-28) as taught by Harriman.

Art Unit: 2188

6. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Butler et al. (US6,720,968) and Harriman (US6,330,645) and Lo et al (US6,115,760).

As per claim 7, the combination of Butler and Harriman discloses the claimed invention as detailed above in the previous paragraphs. However, Butler and Harriman do not specifically teach the buffer control logic comprises a finite state machine as recited in the claim.

Lo discloses a buffer control logic comprises a finite state machine to effectively place a circuit stage in one of many possible operational modes (col. 7, lines 41-45). Since the technology for implementing a control logic comprising a finite state machine was well known as evidenced by Lo, an artisan would have been motivated to implement this feature in the system of Butler and Harriman. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to modify the system of Butler and Harriman to include a control logic comprising a finite state machine because it was well known to effectively place a circuit stage in one of many possible operational modes (col. 7, lines 41-45) as taught by Lo.

As per claim 8, the combination of Butler and Harriman discloses the claimed invention as detailed above in the previous paragraphs. However, Butler and Harriman do not specifically teach the finite state machine is implemented in a look-up table as recited in the claim.

Lo discloses a truth table for the implementation of a finite state machine of a control circuit to perform control selection by the control circuit (col. 8, lines 26-30).

Art Unit: 2188

Since the technology for implementing a finite state machine implemented in a look-up table was well known as evidenced by Lo, an artisan would have been motivated to implement this feature in the system of Butler and Harriman. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to modify the system of Butler and Harriman to include a finite state machine implemented in a look-up table because it was well known provide a system does not require complex interface circuitry to perform of control selection by the control circuit (col. 2, lines 35-36, col. 8, lines 26-30) as taught by Lo.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 9-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As per claim 9, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest "a finite state machine has at least four states, a first state corresponding to an initial idle mode of operation, a second state corresponding to a write-once-to-the-buffer mode of operation, a third state corresponding to a wait mode of operation and a fourth state

Art Unit: 2188

corresponding to a mite-twice-to-the-buffer mode of operation" in combination with the other elements set forth in the claimed invention.

Claims 10-24 are allowable as being dependent upon claim 9 and having additional allowable features therein.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2188

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach transferring write address from buffer to memory in accordance with at least a current command and delaying read when address corresponds to write.

11. The examiner also requests, in response to this Office action, support be shown for language added to any original claims on amendment and any new claims. That is, indicate support for newly added claim language by specifically pointing to page(s) and line no(s) in the specification and/or drawing figure(s). This will assist the examiner in prosecuting the application.

12. When responding to this office action, Applicant is advised to clearly point out the patentable novelty which he or she thinks the claims present, in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made. He or she must also show how the amendments avoid such references or objections See 37 CFR 1.111(c).

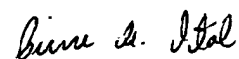
13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pierre M. Vital whose telephone number is (571) 272-4215. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 6:00 pm, alternate Fridays off.

Art Unit: 2188

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mano Padmanabhan can be reached on (571) 272-4210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 5, 2005



Pierre M. Vital
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2188